

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06933 01 OF 02 141503Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 DHA-02

IO-13 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCCT-01 ORM-02

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O P 141213Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1509

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 59

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

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COM THREE TWO MAU

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CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG 14; JUNBLATT VENGEFUL AFTER TELL

ZAATAR; OTHER AFTER-EFFECTS; LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06933 01 OF 02 141503Z

REF: BEIRUT 6921

1. SUMMARY: JUNBLATT CALLS FOR TOTAL WAR, ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF "POPULAR LIBERATION ARMY," AND ORGANIZES COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE BETWEEN HIS NEW ARMY AND LAA. PALESTINIAN REMNANT STILL AT TELL ZAATAR. CHRISTIANS DEFEND THEMSELVES AGAINST ATROCITY STORIES. PIERRE GEMAYEL SPEAKS OF "DECENTRALIZATION." MURABITOUN-SYRIAN CHRISTIAN TENSIONS IN WEST BEIRUT DISSIPATED. POLICE IN WEST BEIRUT MAY BE REACTIVATED. KARAME DISMISSAL STILL POSSIBLE. SYRIAN BORDER CONTROL MEASURES UNLEASH WILD SPECULATION. AL DEPUTY KHOLI SPINNING HIS WHEELS. RIGHTISTS CLAIM LARGE NUMBERS OF IRAQIS ARRIVING, ALSO ALGERIANS AND SOUTH YEMENIS. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES IN BEIRUT AND NORTH, BUT LITTLE MILITARY ACTIVITY ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. JUNBLATT'S CHALLENGE. IN WAKE OF TELL ZAATAR, KAMAL JUNBLATT ISSUED RINGING CALL FOR COMPLETE MOBILIZATION OF LEBANESE LEFTISTS, SAYING MOST HAVE SAT OUT WAR UNTIL NOW, AND PREDICTED WAR OF ATTRITION AGAINST "THIS MARONITE STATE, THE FIRST CONFESSIONAL MINI-STATE WHICH ISRAEL PROPOSES TO CREATE IN THE ARAB WORLD." HE SAID "ISOLATIONISTS" HAVE WON SMALL VICTORIES AT ENORMOUS COST AND DESCRIBED PRESENT SITUATION OF LEFTIST FORCES AS "EXCELLENT." HE FORESEES NEW STRUGGLES NOW AROUND TRIPOLI, IN MOUNTAINS AND IN BEIRUT. HE ANNOUNCED CREATION OF "POPULAR LIBERATION FORCE"), UNDER AEGIS OF HIS RECENTLY-FORMED POLITICAL COUNCIL, AND ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF COORDINATION COMMITTEE BETWEEN NEW ARMY AND LEBANESE ARAB ARMY. ON CIVIL ADMINISTRATION SIDE, HE SPOKE OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION BETWEEN A REACTIVATED LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND HIS OWN QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS. HE CALLED FOR CIVIL SERVANTS TO RESUME FUNCTIONS AND SAID, "ONE DAY, THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WILL BE CALLED UPON TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE VITAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECTORS." HE SAID IRAQ HAD ALREADY GIVEN MOVEMENT \$3 MILLION, AND CALLED UPON ARAB

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06933 01 OF 02 141503Z

WORLD TO CONTRIBUTE \$100 MILLION TO HIS CAUSE.

3. TELL ZAATAR AFTERMATH. CHAMOUN DENIES, BUT PHALANGE ADMITS THAT SOME PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS CONTINUE TO RESIST IN CAMP, SAYING THEY WILL SURRENDER ONLY IN PRESENCE OF RANKING PLO OFFICIAL. PALESTINIAN COMMAND PUBLICLY CLAIMS 50 REMAIN. RED CROSS WAS ABLE EVACUATE ANOTHER 33 PERSONS AUG 13,

INCLUDING 8 WOUNDED. RIGHTISTS HOLDING SEVERAL HUNDRED PRISONERS WHOM THEY SAY THEY TREATING ACCORDING TO GENEVA CONVENTION, AND WHO MAY BE VISITED BY RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVES. RIGHTISTS SEIZED THOUSANDS OF WEAPONS AT TELL ZAATAR, AND CLAIM ARE PURSUING SOME PALESTINIANS WHO EXFILTRATED FROM CAMP IN AREAS OF MONTE VERDE, MANSOURIYYA AND AIN SAADAH.

4. RIGHTIST ATTITUDES AFTER TELL ZAATAR. RIGHTISTS CLEARLY EMBARRASSED BY STORIES OF ATROCITIES, BUT DENY EXTENT. APPARENTLY SOME REFUGEES FROM CAMP WERE GUNNED DOWN IN VICINITY OF DEKOUANEH AFTER BEING CALLED TO SURRENDER. PIERRE GEMAYEL SAID PHALANGE DID EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PERMIT ORDERLY EVACUATION. BECHIR GEMAYEL, IN LENGTHY PRESS CONFERENCE, SPOKE OF HUNDREDS OF LEBANESE KILLED BY SNIPERS OR KIDNAPPED IN AND AROUND REFUGEE CAMPS OVER THE YEARS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF TELL ZAATAR AROUND WHICH, HE SAID, 40 PER CENT OF LEBANON'S INDUSTRY IS CONCENTRATED. HE PRAISED "COURAGE AND HEROISM" OF PALESTINIAN AND LEBANESE DEFENDERS OF CAMP, WHICH HE RENAMED "WILLIAM HAWI HILL" (AFTER PHALANGE LEADER SHOT THERE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO WHILE ACCEPTING PALESTINIAN SURRENDERS). PIERRE GEMAYEL SPOKE OF DECENTRALIZATION OF LEBANON, AND AS-SAFIR REPORTS THAT FORMER PRESIDENT CHARLES HELOU IS GOING TO JORDAN AND SYRIA TO DISCUSS "CANTONIZATION."

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06933 02 OF 02 141513Z

44

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 60
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6933

5. WEST BEIRUT TENSIONS. PRESS REPORTS THAT
MURABITOUN SURROUNDING SYRIAN CHRISTIAN AREA OF
MOUSSEITBE EARLY AUG 13 DO SO AT REQUEST OF CHRISTIANS
THEMSELVES, SEEKING PROTECTION AFTER SEVERAL
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06933 02 OF 02 141513Z

KIDNAPPINGS. TWO DELEGATIONS FROM NEIGHBORHOOD
EXPRESSED THANKS TO NASSERISTS FOR PROTECTION AFTER
SERIES OF MEETINGS INVOLVING SAMIR SABBAGH OF
NASSERISTS, ADNAN ITANI OF MOUSSEITBE NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION, RAYMOND EDDE AND SAEB SALAM.

6. REACTIVATING LOCAL ADMINISTRATION. PRIMIN
KARAME CONTINUES SERIES OF MEETINGS IN EFFORT TO
REACTIVATE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT OFFICES. WE HEAR
THAT BEIRUT POLICE FORCE HOPES RECLAIM SEVERAL
POLICE STATIONS TODAY, AUG 14, AND, IF SUCCESSFUL,
WILL ISSUE GENERAL DIRECTIVE TO ALL POLICE TO RETURN
TO DUTY AUG 17.

7. KARAME TO BE DISMISSED? RUMORS PERSIST THAT
PRESIDENT FRANGIE WILL CALL COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
MEETING, PERHAPS FOR AUG 18, AND DISMISS KARAME IF
HE DOES NOT APPEAR. POSSIBLE REPLACEMENTS BEING
MENTIONED ARE ABDEL-RAHMAN SOLH, LEBANESE

AMBASSADOR TO JORDAN, AS WELL AS SULEIMAN ALI.

8. SYRIAN BORDERS. NEW CONTROL MEASURES BEING ESTABLISHED BY SYRIANS AT BORDER CROSSING UNLEASHED SPATE OF RUMORS IN BEIRUT AUG 13, INCLUDING STORY OF COUP ATTEMPT IN DAMASCUS. SPECULATION ON SYRIAN MOTIVES INCLUDES DISPATCH OF NEW MILITARY UNITS TO LEBANON, UNREST IN SYRIA, DESIRE TO CONTROL ENTRY OF TELL ZAATAR REFUGEES INTO SYRIA, AND NEW STEPS TO TIGHTEN BLOCKAGE OF PALESTINIAN/LEFTIST AREAS IN LEBANON.

9. ARAB LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. AL DEPUTY KHOLI, ACCORDING TO AN-NAHAR, CANCELLED MEETING WITH KFOUR LEADERS AUG 13, BECAUSE PALESTINIANS NOT WILLING AT PRESENT TO DISCUSS WITHDRAWAL FROM THEIR POSITIONS IN METN. ON HIS POSSIBLE VISIT TO DAMASCUS, HE IS NOW SAYING ONLY THAT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. ON BASIS OF AL FORCE OBSERVATIONS, HE CATEGORICALLY CONTRADICTED REPORTS OF MOLESTING OF REFUGEES LEAVING TELL ZAATAR ON FOOT IN MUSEUM AREA AUG 12.

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06933 02 OF 02 141513Z

10. IRAQIS AND OTHERS HELPING LEFT. RIGHTISTS CLAIM SOME 2500 IRAQI TROOPS DISEMBARKED FROM TWO SHIPS AT TYRE IN LAST TWO DAYS, ALONG WITH WEAPONS AND HEAVY MILITARY EQUIPMENT. AL ANWAR SAYS ADDITIONAL 350 IRAQIS, ALGERIANS AND SOUTH YEMENIS HAVE COME ASHORE AT SIDON, AND REPORTS MOVEMENT OF PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS, OR THEIR ALLIES, TO SOUTHERN BEIRUT CONFRONTATION AREA. WE SUSPECT THEIR CLAIMS ARE EXAGGERATED.

11. MILITARY SITUATION. ARTILLERY EXCHANGES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST BEIRUT CONTINUE, AS WELL AS ALONG TRADITIONAL LINES AROUND TRIPOLI. PALESTINIANS/LEFTISTS CLAIM CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDING UP FORCES IN METN AREA, AND SYRIANS ARE BUILDING UP FORCES IN SOFAR AREA. IN SOUTH, LEBANESE ARAB ARMY HAS REMOVED MAJOR BOUTARI AS LOCAL COMMANDER, AFTER SCANDALS REVOLVING AROUND DISTRIBUTION OF FUEL AND FLOUR, AND REPLACED HIM WITH LT. ABDUL HELIM KENJ. HUNT

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